

Hurricane Preparedness Tips – Elevator Safety

The following steps should be taken prior to, during and after a hurricane emergency.

- ▶ Clear out gutters, drains and downspouts to prevent an accumulation of rain water which may cascade to the floors below and find its way into the elevator shafts.
- ▶ Elevators should not function during a hurricane emergency. Water may damage the machinery and passengers can become trapped in the cars. Telephones may be inoperative and elevator mechanics may be unable to handle emergencies due to flooded and unsafe roads.
- ▶ When a hurricane approaches, park the elevator car at the top floor so that if an upper floor is flooded, the water will not fall on top of the car and damage its operating panel, door operator, electrical devices and wiring.
- ▶ Pull the disconnect switches in the machine room and close and lock the door to prevent the elevator from operating during a hurricane. Water that may run down, or rising ground water may fill the elevator pit, causing electrical shortages and a shutdown if the elevator is left running.
- ▶ Once the hurricane is over, check the elevator machine room, all electrical equipment, hoistways and pits before starting the elevators. If water has affected any of these areas, have the equipment inspected before placing the elevators back in service.

Taking these precautions may prevent long elevator shutdowns, unnecessary repair expenses, inconvenience and personal injury.

[Back to the USAG-Miami Hurricane Preparedness Page](#)